

Application No. 10/662,790
Amendment dated 07/28/2006
Office Action mailed May 2, 2006

02-ASD-332 (GT)

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of mounting a pass-through on a plastic fuel tank comprising:
forming an access opening in the wall of the tank, the access opening having an edge;
disposing a locking ring over the access opening and attaching the ring to the exterior of the tank, the locking ring having an undercut surface;
providing a pass-through with a resilient sealing ring thereon;
disposing at least one ratcheting surface on one of the pass-through and the locking ring and at least one pawl on the other of the pass-through and the locking ring;
disposing a portion of the pass-through in the access opening and locating the sealing ring on the edge of the access opening; and,
securing the pass-through against the undercut surface of the locking ring by twist locking the pass-through in the locking ring and preventing twisting in a reverse direction and retaining the sealing ring against the edge of the access opening.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Withdrawn) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said step of providing a pass-through includes providing a vent valve.
5. (Previously amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the step of disposing a locking ring includes disposing a locking ring formed of the same plastic material as the fuel tank.
6. (Previously amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the step of providing a pass-through includes forming an annular groove on the pass-through and disposing an o-ring in the groove.
7. (Previously amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the pass-through is a spud, and wherein the step of providing a pass-through includes inserting and twist locking a one-way valve in the spud.
8. (Previously amended) The method defined in claim 7, wherein the step of inserting a one-way valve includes disposing an annular seal between the pass-through and the one-way valve.
9. (Previously amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the locking ring is first mechanically attached to the pass through and subsequently attached in place on the fuel tank during insertion of the pass-through through the access opening.
10. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein the fuel tank has an embedded vapor barrier, wherein the step of forming an access opening includes exposing an edge of the vapor barrier at the edge of the access opening.
11. (Previously added) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of locating the sealing ring includes locating the sealing ring on the exposed edge of the vapor barrier.
12. (Withdrawn) A system attachable to a fuel tank having an access opening with an edge in a wall of the fuel tank, the system comprising:

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a locking ring that is attachable to an exterior of the tank over the access opening, over the access opening and attaching the ring to the exterior of the tank, the locking ring having an undercut surface; and

a pass-through with a resilient sealing ring adapted to be located against the edge of the access opening, the pass-through having an outwardly extending flange that secures against the undercut surface of the locking ring.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the fuel tank has an embedded vapor barrier, and wherein an edge of the vapor barrier is exposed at the edge of the access opening.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 13, wherein the sealing ring is located on the exposed edge of the vapor barrier.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the flange includes at least one outwardly extending projection and the locking ring includes at least one inwardly extending locking lug that forms the undercut such that the projection engages with the locking lug.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, wherein said at least one outwardly extending projection includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced projections and said at least one inwardly extending locking lug comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced locking lugs.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the locking ring is configured to allow securing of the flange via a twist locking motion.

18. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein one of the flange and the locking ring includes at least one pawl and the other of the flange and the locking ring includes at least one ratchet that engages with said at least one pawl during a twist locking process to prevent twisting of the pass-through in a reverse direction.

19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the locking ring is formed of the same plastic material as the fuel tank.

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20. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein an annular groove is formed on the pass-through and an o-ring is disposed in the groove.
21. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the pass-through comprises a one-way valve.
22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the pass-through comprises:
 - a spud;
 - a one-way valve; and
 - an annular seal disposed between the spud and the one-way valve.